

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 7-28 were presented and examined. In response to the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, and 7 are amended, no claims are cancelled and no claims are added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 7-18 are objected to on the grounds of various informalities. In response, Claim 7 has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 3 and 7-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for various reasons. In response, Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to rectify the deficiencies identified by the Examiner. Regarding Claim 1, Claim 1 is amended to recite a second registration procedure which registers a sending destination of a received lower layer frame in a second table for each destination address contained in a second table, on the basis of the calculation result.

Regarding Claim 3, Claim 3 is amended to recite:

wherein, when transmitting the first information to the frame transfer apparatus, said first transmission procedure transmits information about the destination address to a transmission source address of each lower layer address pair contained in the first information, the transmitted information about the destination address including information contained in the frame information of the received lower layer frame, and information about a destination address of an upper layer corresponding to the destination address from the frame information. (Emphasis added.)

This should clarify the term “the sending destination,” as identified by the Examiner. Therefore, in view of the amendments to the claims, we submit that claim 1, 3, and 7-28

particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant considers to be the invention. In view of the above, please reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 of claims 1, 3, and 7-28.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicant's silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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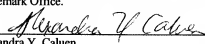
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


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January 15, 2009